

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add my voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. The combination of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like me, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined company will be a much stronger competitor to cable television and can offer more programming choices and, most importantly, all local TV channels in every market in the U.S. By providing local TV channels everywhere, this merger will make satellite television a strong alternative to cable in our community. Throughout the country, people will now be able to turn to satellite TV to access their local news, weather and community information, in addition to a comprehensive package of national video programming. But just as exciting, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite to over 40 million Americans who don't have high-speed Internet access. These tremendous benefits to consumers won't happen without the merger. Satellite-delivered Internet service will bring an affordable and competitive alternative to cable modems and DSL to consumers in big cities, small towns and rural areas alike. This will give me a competitive choice for Internet access and will be especially advantageous to rural communities where cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available anytime in the near future.

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, I urge you to lend your support to this merger.

also i wish to tell you this the reason i left cable is because rate hikes and i moved where there were no lines to the house. so they wanted \$1100 just to bring it down 500 feet from the main road and would not do it to 2 years. i have found dishnetwork as a great deal compared to cable and with the merger they will be able to save more money and make it an even better product. please let this merger pass and we will finally get a true competitor to cable. city's make deals with a cable company and no other is aloud to go into the city. portland has only one cable co. their should be more of an open market. but if only one cable co in each city. this will help both the people in city's and country. this will help all customers of cable as well as dishnetworks customers. it will give us a choice.
thank you for you time steve

Sincerely,

Steven mcinnis
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